

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

DATE: MARCH 26, 2009

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Tessier
O'Connor
Kenny
VanNess
Taylor
Goodspeed

Committee Member Absent:

Supervisor Bentley

Others Present:

Kate Hogan, District Attorney
Robert Iusi, Director of Probation
John Wappett, Public Defender
Amy Bartlett, First Assistant County Attorney
Frederick Monroe, Chairman of the Board
Hal Payne, Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
Supervisor Geraghty
Supervisor Stec
Supervisor Thomas
Supervisor Strainer
Supervisor Pitkin
Supervisor Belden
Bud York, Sheriff
Shane Ross, Chief Deputy
Sheila Weaver, Commissioner, Department of Social Services
Jarrod York, Warren County Resident
Jim Foster, Warren County Resident
Thom Randall, *Adirondack Journal*
Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist

Mr. Tessier called the meeting of the Criminal Justice Committee to order at 10:12 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. VanNess, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2009 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Robert Iusi, Director of Probation, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Iusi presented a request to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to share Probation information with the DSS for the purpose of identifying welfare fraud.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the request to enter into a MOU as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 17, 2009 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Concluding the Probation Agenda, Mr. Iusi presented a request to renew the contract between Warren County and the New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives to provide additional target services for probationers with mental illness, from July 1, 2009 through

June 30, 2010, for a total amount not to exceed \$47,000. Mr. Iusi stated that in an effort to improve program outcomes, programmatic changes had been made, whereby Warren County would not seek contractors for services and subsequently all revenue would remain in Warren County.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Goodspeed and carried unanimously to approve the request to renew the contract between Warren County and the New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 17, 2009 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Privilege of the floor was extended to Kate Hogan, District Attorney, who praised the efforts of Mr. Iusi. She stated that Mr. Iusi's work as the Director of Probation was unmatched in New York State and his participation with the State Division of Probation was critical to the effort.

Ms. Hogan presented a request to host the quarterly meeting of the Victim Assistance Program of the Northeastern Coalition for Crime Victims Service Providers on June 2, 2009, at the Warren County Sheriff's Department Training Room, with a total cost of \$350 for food and beverages.

Motion was made by Mr. Goodspeed, seconded by Mr. Kenny and carried unanimously to approve the request to host the meeting of the Northeastern Coalition for Crime Victims Service Providers as outlined above. *A copy of the Request to Host Meeting or Convention is on file with the minutes.*

The second and final item presented by Ms. Hogan was a request to submit a grant application to the New York State Crime Victim's Board, to fund the Crime Victim Assistance Program, for a term commencing October 1, 2009 and terminating September 30, 2012.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Goodspeed and carried unanimously to approve the request to submit a grant application as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 17, 2009 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Privilege of the floor was extended to Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, who presented a request on behalf of the Assigned Counsel, for a transfer of funds from Legal Fees/Transcripts to Office Equipment, in the amount of \$350, to replace a broken printer.

Motion was made by Mr. Goodspeed, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the request to transfer funds in the amount of \$350 as outlined above, and to refer same to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Geraghty raised the issue of the recent public coverage pertaining to the claim from the Public Defender against the District Attorney and he invited dialogue from the Committee members. Mr. VanNess conveyed his concern, and said that the current policy had been consistent with past practice in the District Attorney's Office. Mr. Tessier stated that the issue should have been brought before this committee prior to the release of any information to the media. Mr. Geraghty asked how the expenses related to the case would be paid. Ms. Hogan stated that although she would not comment on pending litigation, she clarified that said claim was a writ of prohibition whereby the claim would not seek payment for damages, but rather a change in policy. Mr. VanNess asserted that the taxpayers of Warren County pay for the County staff time involved in such a case.

John Wappett, Public Defender, entered the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. VanNess and carried unanimously that executive session be declared, pursuant to Section 105 (d) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive session was declared from 10:21 a.m. to 10:32 a.m.

Committee reconvened and Mr. Tessier advised no action was necessary pursuant to the executive session.

There being no further business to come before the Criminal Justice Committee, on motion by Mr. Goodspeed and seconded by Mr. VanNess, Mr. Tessier adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist